During 1994-95 production target has been fixed at 81.15 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 23.31 lakh tonnes of phosphate. This indicates a growth rate of production by 12 per cent in Nitrogen & 28 per cent in phosphate over actual production during 1993-94. The indigenous production of fertilizers has been growing over the years. Howeer, the gap, if any, between the demand and indigenous availability of fertilizers will continue to be bridged by imports.

Price of Desferal

269. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a non-voluntary organisation has recently requested Government to reduce the price of life saving drug 'Desferal' used for the treatment of thalessamia; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard since the price had gone up from Rs. 155 to Rs. 695 per box of five vials recently for this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The movement of the price of Desferal which is as imported formulation and not under price control in the last three years has been as following:

(Rs.)

Date	Price of 5 vials
5-7-91	410.00
1-3-92	290.00
31-12-92	370.00
28-5-93	493.00
1-3-94	528.40
22-6-94	669.80
27-9-94	611.48

Import of Urea

270. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import large quantity of Urea during the current year and if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard;

(b) the details of the steps so far taken to ease the acute shortage of Urea during the current year with details of the results achieved; and

(c) whether Government propose to revive the closed units of sick Public Sector Units and if so, the details thereof and how much finance is necessary for their revival alongwith the details of anticipated production of Urea of those units per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Imports of Urea are effected to bridge the gap